

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 PA-01 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 VO-05 H-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
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R 261424Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 9783
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USICA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, RO
SUBJ: A ROMANIAN MEDIA BLAST AT EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED
STATES
REFS: (A) BUCHAREST 3389 (NOTAL); (B) BUCHAREST 2451 (NOTAL)

1. SOCIALIST UNITY FRONT WEEKLY "FLACARA" PUBLISHED MAY 18
CARRIES FULL-PAGE ACCOUNT OF THE TRAVELS OF ONE OCTAVIAN
IANCEA, 23, WHO, MOVED BY A THIRST FOR ADVENTURE, "ADOLESCENT
CRAZINESS," AND CHILDHOOD DREAMS OF SEEING NEW YORK, EMIGRATED
ILLEGALLY ON A TOURIST PASSPORT. IANCEA WENT FROM BRATISLAVA
TO VIENNA, WAITED FOUR MONTHS IN BLEAK "DREIKIRCHEN" CAMP
BEFORE BEING PROCESSED INTO THE U.S. VIA THE INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE COMMITTEE, BUT DISCOVERED ON ARRIVAL THAT HE COULDN'T
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FIND A GOOD JOB. DISILLUSIONED BY A SUCCESSION OF
MENIAL, ILL-PAID JOBS AND LIFE IN SLUM BUILDINGS, IANCEA
PAID HIS DEBTS TO THE IRC AND VOWED TO RETURN THROUGH
VIENNA. INSTEAD OF REPRIMANDING HIM, THE ROMANIAN
EMBASSY IN VIENNA TREATED HIM KINDLY, "LIKE ANYONE ELSE
WHO DECIDES TO RETURN," AND BOUGHT HIM A TRAIN TICKET.
BACK IN TIMISOARA, HE FOUND A WARM AND HAPPY WELCOME,

AND CONCLUDED THAT NOWHERE IS THE SUN AS WARMING AS
AT HOME.

2. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO RECORD OF MR. IANCEA.
ARTICLE CONTAINS SEVERAL THEMES COMMON TO GOR'S PROPAGANDA
EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE EMIGRATION (REF B). IN ADDITION TO
CONCEPT THAT EMIGRATION IS UNPATRIOTIC AND MISGUIDED,
THERE IS IMPLICATION THAT LIVING STANDARDS ARE BETTER
FOR ROMANIANS IN ROMANIA THAN IN MENIAL JOBS IN THE WEST.
MUCH IS MADE OF EMIGRANTS HAVING TO SACRIFICE JOB STATUS
AND BEING FORCED TO TAKE JOBS THAT WESTERNERS DISDAIN. ALSO
TOUTED IS CONTRAST BETWEEN NICE WESTERN WORDS ABOUT HUMAN
RIGHTS AND THE HARD REALITIES OF REFUGEE CAMPS, UNEMPLOYMENT,
AND POOR LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD. NEVER-
THELESS, WHILE EMIGRATION PER SE CONTINUES TO
TAKE ITS PERIODIC LUMPS IN ROMANIA MEDIA, WE HAVE SEEN
NO SUCH ATTACK ON CONCEPT OF REUNIFICATION OF NUCLEAR
FAMILIES, WHICH REMAINS, FOR GOR, AN ACCEPTABLE REASON FOR
PASSPORT ISSUANCE. AND, WHILE EMIGRATION TAKES ITS
LUMPS PUBLICLY, DEPARTURES OF "PASSPORT DISSIDENTS" AND
OTHER NUISANCES TO GOR WHO LACK CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE WEST
QUIETLY CONTINUE.

3. ARTICLE IS THE FIRST MAJOR PRESS COMMENT ON EMIGRATION
TO THE U.S. WE HAVE SEEN SINCE THE ALL-OUT ANTI-EMIGRATION
PRESS CAMPAIGN OF SPRING 1977. WE ARE STRUCK BY ITS
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APPEARANCE DURING A PERIOD OF NOTABLE GOR EFFORT TO RESOLVE
LONG-STANDING PROBLEM CASES AND GENERALLY TO SPEED FLOW
OF INTENDING EMIGRANTS TO U.S. (REF A). SPRING 1977 PRESS
CAMPAIGN, WHICH PRIMARILY FOCUSSED ON EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC
GERMANS, ALSO CAME AT TIME OF SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN
EMIGRATION TO THE FRG (77 BUCHAREST 2426). APPARENT IS
A COSMETIC EFFORT TO PRESERVE GOR'S ANTI-EMIGRATION STANCE
VIS-A-VIS ROMANIAN PUBLIC AT TIMES OF INCREASED POLITICAL
ACCOMMODATION WITH U.S. OR FRG ON EMIGRATION, THIS AS A
MEANS OF PREVENTING EVEN MORE WIDESPREAD CLAMOR FOR PER-
MANENT DEPARTURE PASSPORTS.
AGGREY

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